

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

TEXT

Wilson, James Q. and Dilulio, John J. Jr. *American Government*, Tenth Edition, Houghton Miffling Co., 2006.

AP United States Government and Politics is a college level survey course over U.S. government and the key concepts that make it up. The major content areas covered are:

- A. Constitutional underpinnings of the U.S. government
- B. Political Beliefs and Behaviors
- C. Political parties, interest groups and mass media
- D. Institutions of National Government
- E. Public Policy
- F. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The students will receive instruction and practice at answering multiple choice questions, analyzing charts and graphs, interpreting political cartoons and answering free response questions. The primary purpose of the course is to prepare the students for the AP Exam.

Every class period will start with a discussion of current events involving government. Also, each student will research and write over three current events that are impacting the U.S. government.

Curricular Requirements

CR 1 = Constitutional Underpinnings of the U.S. Government

CR 2 = Political Beliefs and Political Behaviors

CR 3 = Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media

CR 4 = Institutions of National Government

CR 5 = Public policy

CR 6 = Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

CR 7 = The course provides students with practice analyzing and interpreting data and other information relevant to U.S. government and politics.

CR 8 = The course includes supplemental readings, including primary sources (such as *The Federalist Papers*) and contemporary news analyses that strengthen student understanding of the curriculum.

CR 9 = The course requires students to answer analytical and interpretive free-response questions on a frequent basis.

COURSE PLAN

Unit I: Constitutional Underpinnings

- A. Political power and democracy.
- B. Constitution
 - 1. Articles of Confederation and weaknesses
 - 2. Constitutional Convention
 - 3. Constitution and democracy

4. Constitution and liberty
5. Constitution and economics
6. Constitution today

C. Federalism

1. What is federalism
2. Supreme Court and federalism
3. Federal- State relations
4. Federal Aid and control
5. Devolution
6. Federalism today

Day	Lesson	Articles/Charts/Tables /Documents	Homework	Curricular Requirements
1	Introduction- Democracy and political power		Read Chapter 1	CR 1
2.	Evolution of democracy	Magna Charta	Read pages 17-31	
3	Constitutional Convention-plans adopted	Articles of Confederation <i>Federalist 10 and 51.</i>	Read <i>Federalist 10 or 51.</i> and answer questions over it-also pages 32-33	CR 8
4	Federalist Papers	Federalist 10 and 51	Read page 34-40	
5	Checks and Balances	DVD-Checks and balances	Read 41-46- start review packet	
6	Liberty, democracy and the Constitution		Do a review packet	
7	Review packet Amendments -formal and informal	Amendment transparency	Read pages 49-59.	
8	Federalism and the Supreme Court	Chart 3.1 (unitary, federal and confederation) Chapter outline	Read pages 60-73.	
9	Federalism- Categorical grants, revenue sharing, block grants,	Transparency- Grants Transparency-	Study	

	mandates and conditions of aid.	government expenditures.	amendments.	
10	Amendment Quiz Discuss criteria in answering free response questions.		Review packet	
11	Review for a test			
12	Test-Chapters 1, 2, and 3. Multiple choice and free response		Read pages 98- 108.	CR 9

Unit II – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

A. Civil Liberties

1. What is free speech?
2. Culture and civil liberties
3. 1st Amendment freedom speech and limitations
4. Church and state
5. Crime and due process

B. Civil Liberties

1. The Black Predicament
2. The Campaign in the Courts
3. Women and Equal Rights
4. Affirmative Action

13	Return and go over tests. Speech and civil liberties.	Outline over chapter 5. Court Cases over Civil Liberties	Read pages 109-116. Read and write over Supreme Court cases. Write an essay over freedom of religion.	CR 6 CR 9
14	First Amendment rights and limits on free speech. Students report on court cases	2 Live Crew song lyrics.	Read pages 117-122. Read and answer questions over pornography, rape and the First Amendment.	CR 7

15	Discuss the free exercise and establishment clauses. Current event report 1 is due.	Court cases involving freedom of religion.	Answer a worksheet over civil liberties.	CR 8
16	Discuss the essays over freedom of religion and go over the scoring. Discuss court cases over civil liberties.	Earl Gideon DVD.	Read pages 125-130	
16	Crime and due process	Court cases over due process and the 4 th Amendment.	Read, evaluate and write over the Patriot Act.	CR 8
18	Civil liberties and terrorism. Intro civil rights	Outline over chapter 6.	Read pages 130-138.	
19	Fourteenth Amendment and civil rights.	Video-Brown v. Board of Education.	Read pages 139-144. Read and analyze the 1964 Civil Rights Act.	CR 8
20	De jure and de facto segregation. Civil rights laws	Transparency over Civil Rights Laws	Read pages 145-151.	
21	Women and equal rights. American Disabilities Act	Chart over the rights of the disabled.	Complete a review packet.	
22	Affirmative action Gay rights and the Constitution.		Study for a test.	
23	Test- Chapters 5 and 6.- Multiple choice and a free response question.		Read pages 76-87.	CR 9

Unit III- Political Beliefs and Behaviors

A. American Political Culture

7. What is political culture?
8. Elements of the American political culture
9. Culture and the U.S. economic system
10. Comparing U.S. culture to other countries
11. Political efficacy
12. Political tolerance

D. Public Opinion

1. What is public opinion?
2. Political socialization
3. Cleavages in public opinion
4. Political ideology

E. Political Participation

1. Nonvoting in the U.S.

2. The Rise of the American Electorate
3. Political Participation

24	Return and go over tests. U.S. political culture compared to other countries. Current Event report one is due.	Outline over chapter 4. Tables 4.1 over patriotism, 4.2 over income equity and 4.3 over attitudes on economic equality.	Read an article by Alexis de Tocqueville and answer questions over it.	CR 2 CR 8
25	Religion and the culture war.	Tables 4.4 over religious beliefs, 4.5 over religion in America today and 4.6 over religion in industrial nations. Video- religion in the U.S.	Review packet. Data questions over tables on prayer.	CR 7
26	Political efficacy. Political tolerance.	Figures 4.4 over public tolerance, 4.5 over toleration and morality, and 4.6 over changes in levels of tolerance.	Read pages 154-162.	
27	Public opinion. Political socialization-family, religion, gender and education.	Outline over chapter 7. Tables- 7.1 over opinions on school prayer, 7.2 over religious influence on public opinion, and 7.3 the gender gap.	Read pages 163-174.	CR 7
28	Cleavages in public opinion-social class, race and ethnicity and regions. Intro ideology- students take a test to determine their ideology.	Political ideology litmus test.	Review packet.	
29	Political ideology	Table- 7.4 over African American and white opinion. Figures- 7.2 over Hispanic views on U.S. politics and 7.3 over	Read pages 178-187.	CR 7

		ideological self-identification.		
30	Nonvoting- facts and reasons for. Rise of the American electorate	Transparency-voting	Read pages 188-195.	
31	Political participation	Outline over chapter 8.	Review packet	
32	Review for a test Do a sheet over election terms	Video- voting	Study for a test.	
33	Test over Chapters 4, 7 and 8. Multiple choice and a free response question.		Read pages 198-207.	CR 9

Unit IV. Political Parties, Interest Groups and Mass Media

A. Political Parties

1. Parties- here and abroad
2. History of U.S. political parties
3. The 2-party system
4. Minor parties

B. Elections and Campaigns

1. Presidential and Congressional campaigns
2. Primary and general elections
3. Money and elections

C. Interest Groups

1. The rise of interest groups
2. Kinds of interest groups
3. Interest groups and social movements
4. Money, interest groups and PACs

D. Media

1. The history and structure of the media in the U.S.
2. National Media
3. Rules Governing the Media
4. Are the Media Biased?

34	Return and go over tests. Development of political parties.	Outline over chapter 9 Chart- election of 1824.	Read 208-223.	CR 3
35	Structure and function of political parties.		Read pages 224-228	
36	Two party system and minor parties.	Minor party chart page 221.	Review packet. Read and answer questions over an	CR 7

			article on the 2-party system and the Electoral College	
37	Presidential and congressional elections. Current event report 2 is due.	Figures 9.1 over decline in party identification and 9.3 over cleavages and continuity in the two-party system. Tables 9.1 over party delegates, 9.2 over the rise of Republican politics in the South and 9.4 over the public rates the two parties.	Read pages 231-244. Write over reasons for the decline in party membership.	CR 8 CR 7
38	Elections- Presidential, Congressional and primaries.	Outline over chapter 10	Read pages 244-263	
39	Money and campaign finance	Chart over the election of 2004	Read pages 265-273. Essay over the 2004 election.	
40	Rise of interest groups	Outline over chapter 11	Read pages 274-288 Review packet	
41	Interest groups and PACs.	Transparency over PACs. Tables 11.3 over spending by PACs and 11.4 over how PACs spent their money.	Read pages 292-300.	CR 7
42	Return and discuss essays over 2004 Election. History and structure of the media in the U.S.		Read 301-313.	
43	Media today	Outline over the Media.	Review packet	
44	Review for a test		Study for a test.	
45	Test over chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12. Multiple choice and free response.		Read pages 317-325	CR 9

Unit V. Institutions of Government

A. Congress

1. Evolution of Congress
2. Makeup of Congress
3. Voting of Members
4. Organization of Congress: Parties and Caucuses
5. Committees
6. How a Bill Becomes a Law

B. The Presidency

1. Divided Government
2. Evolution of the Presidency
3. Powers of the Presidency
4. Office of the Presidency
5. Presidential Transition

C. The Bureaucracy

1. Growth of the Bureaucracy
2. The Federal Bureaucracy Today
3. Congressional Oversight

D. The Judiciary

1. Development of the Federal Courts
2. Structure of the Federal Courts
3. Power of the Federal Courts
4. Checks on Judicial Power

46	Return and discuss the tests. Evolution of Congress. Current event report two is due.	Outline over chapter 13.	Read pages 326- 330.	CR 4
47	Makeup of Congress. Current event report 3 is due.	Transparency comparing the House and the Senate.	Read pages 331- 341.	CR 8
48	Representational, attitudinal and representational voting. Party leadership in Congress.	Party leadership chart- page 336.	Read pages 342- 347.	
49	Party caucuses in Congress. Roles and types of Committees	Table 13.5 over Congressional Caucuses.	Read pages 348- 352. Students use the Internet to research and report over bills in Congress.	CR 8
50	Lawmaking process- Introducing a bill, committee roles, rules in the House and Senate		Read pages 353- 359.	

51	Bills- Debate and voting process.	Video- how a bill becomes a law. Transparency over a bill becoming law.	Read 360-364. D Review packet	
52	Review Congress. Students present on the bills that they researched.		Assign pages 368-375.	
53	Compare presidential and parliamentary systems. Evolution of the presidency.		Read pages 376-383.	
54	Electoral College. Powers of the President.	Transparency over the Electoral College.	Read pages 384-390.	CR 7
55	The office of the President- White House Office, EOP, Cabinet. Presidential power of appointment and dismissal.	Chart over Federal Agencies.	Read pages 391-397.	
56	Character of modern presidents Power to persuade. Presidential popularity.	Tables 14.3 over partisan gains or losses in Congress, 14.4 over off-year elections and 14.5 over presidential vetoes.	Read pages 398-406.	CR 7
57	The power to say no- veto and executive privilege. Presidential succession.	Transparency over the 25 th Amendment.	Review packet.	
58	Review for a test over Chapters 13 and 14.		Study for a test.	
59	Test over chapters 13 and 14. Multiple choice and free response.		Read pages 410-414.	CR 9
60	Return and go over the tests. The American bureaucracy- makeup and history of.	Figures 15.1 over the real Washington Bureaucracy and 15.2 over money, people and regulations.	Read pages 415-427.	CR 4
61	The Federal bureaucracy today		Read pages 428-433.	
62	Congressional oversight		Review packet.	
63	Judicial review and the history of the courts.	Transparency over the jurisdiction of	Read pages 438-451.	

		the federal courts.	Read and report over an article on female judges.	CR 8
64	Structure and jurisdiction of the federal courts.	Figure 16. 1 over female and minority judicial appointments.	Read pages 452-456. Read and write over an article on female judges.	CR 8
65	Supreme court- makeup and in action.	Video over cases on appeal.	Read pages 457-457.	
66	Power of the federal courts. Checks on judicial power.		Review packet.	
67	Discuss cases illustrating judicial review. Review for a test.		Study for a test.	
68	Test over chapters 15 and 16. Multiple choice and free response.		Read pages 469-475.	CR 9

Unit VI. The Politics of Public Policy

- A. Policy-Making Process
- B. Economic Policy and Social Welfare
- C. Foreign and Military Policy

69	Return and go over tests. Public policy-setting the agenda and groups that influence it.		Read pages 476-487.	CR 5
70	Majoritarian, interest-group, client and entrepreneurial politics.	Chart over the benefits received theory of politics.	Read pages 492-498.	
71	Politics and economics- balanced budgets and deficit financing		Read pages 499-502.	
72	Monetary and fiscal policy and the role of each in government.		Read pages 503-510.	
73	The budget process- groups that play a role.	Transparency over making the budget.	Read pages 512-519.	
74	Social welfare in the U.S.- emphasis on Social Security, AFDC and Medicare.	Table 19.1 over Social Security. Table 19.2 over health care	Read pages 530-536.	CR 7

		spending in the U.S.		
75	U.S. foreign policy- goals and groups that impact foreign policy.	Table 20.1 over foreign policy crises. Table 20.2 over the views of the public and elite on foreign policy.	Read 537- 547.	
76	History of U.S. foreign policy. War Powers Resolution. World views of foreign policy.	Transparency over the War Powers Resolution.	Review packet.	
77	Review for a test			
78	Test over chapters 17,18,19 and 20.- multiple choice and free response questions.		Analyze and write over political cartoons.	CR 7 CR 9

79	Return and go over tests. Groups do projects over political cartoons.	Review sheets.	
80	Write free response essays over sample questions.		CR 9
81	Critique the free response essays. Do a sample multiple choice test.		
82	Review.		
83	Final exam. Multiple choice and free response.		CR 9
84	Return final exams. Review for the AP test.		